

Message Text

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FOR HODDING CARTER FROM PA/PRESS

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TAGS:SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT:MORNING TRAVELLING PRESS SUMMARY, APRIL 18, 1978

NO. 9

NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON POST -- MARDER FROM SALISBURY

LEAD: "THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN OBTAINED AGREEMENT YES-
TERDAY FROM RHODESIA'S TEMPORARY GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER NEW
PEACE TALKS WITH BLACK GUERRILLA LEADERS OF THE PATRIOTIC
FRONT."

OTHER POINTS:

-- THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT SAID IT WOULD REVIEW ITS DECISION
REGARDING NEGOTIATIONS W-TH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IN RESPONSE
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TO THE VANCE-OWEN MISSION.

-- THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETINGS FELL SHORT OF AN ALL-PARTY
CONFERENCE.

-- SMITH TOLD REPORTERS THAT THAT RHODESIA'S EXECUTIVE COUN-
CIL WOULD GIVE "RESPONSIBLE" CONSIDERATION TO THE A-A PLAN.
--VANCE AND OWEN TOLD SMITH AND HIS COLLEAGUES THAT IF THEY
BLOCK TALKS WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT THEY WILL BE CROSSING
A BRIDGE OF NO RETURN THAT LEADS TO CIVIL WAR.

-- OWEN TOLD REPORTERS THAT NO TIME LIMIT HAS BEEN PUT ON A REPLY FROM SMITH ET AL. VANCE FOUND THE TALKS "VERY HELPFUL" AND HIS TRIP USEFUL EVEN THOUGH "THE ROAD AHEAD IS VERY DIFFICULT."

-- BY SETTING THEIR DIPLOMATIC EXPECTATIONS SO LOW, VANCE AND OWEN SOUGHT TO PRECLUDE THE DAMAGE THAT A DOUBLE SET-BACK WITHIN THREE DAYS WOULD CAUSE THE ANGLO-AMERICAN FORMULA. REPORTERS WERE TOLD THAT VANCE WOULD CONSIDER ANYTHING SHORT OF AN OUTRIGHT REJECTION OF AN ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE TO BE AN ENCOURAGING SIGN.

--A CROWD OF BLACKS DEMONSTRATED OUTSIDE THE BUILDING WHERE THE MEETING WAS HELD. THE PROTESTS INDICATED THE EXTENT OF CHANGE IN RHODESIA SINCE IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT BLACKS HAD DEMONSTRATED IN SUPPORT OF SMITH.

NYT -- BURNS FROM SALISBURY

LEAD: "AMERICAN AND BRITISH MEDIATORS ENDED A TOUR OF SOUTHERN AFRICA TODAY HAVING FAILED TO BREAK A DEADLOCK IN THE RHODESIAN DISPUTE BUT WITH NO OUTRIGHT REJECTION OF THEIR UNCLASSIFIED

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PLAN FOR AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE TRANSITION TO BLACK MAJORITY RULE.

OTHER POINTS:

--THE PLAN FOR AN ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE HAS BEEN DEFERRED, BUT THE MEDIATORS CONTENDED THAT THE TOUR HAD BEEN WORTHWHILE BECAUSE ALL THOSE INVOLVED HAD AGREED TO CONTINUE THE CONTACTS.

-- AMERICAN SOURCES SAID THE RHODESIANS HAD ARGUED FOR ACCEPTANCE OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AND REJECTED KEY ELEMENTS OF THE A-A PLAN ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD ENSURE AN EVENTUAL TAKEOVER BY THE GUERRILLAS.

-- VANCE TOOK CARE TO DISTANCE HIMSELF FROM THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT. WHEN ASKED HOW HE FELT ABOUT VISITING A COUNTRY THAT THE US HAD SHUNNED FOR MORE THAN A DECADE, HE SMILED AND REPLIED, "I THINK ITS A LOVELY COUNTRY."

-- 700 SUPPORTERS OF MUZOREWA DEMONSTRATED DURING THE MORNING SESSION. HOSTILITY ALSO CAME FROM A GROUP OF WHITES WHO WAITED OUTSIDE THE BUILDING. A WOMAN TOSSED COINS AT OWEN'S

CAR AND SHOUTED, "JUDAS, JUDAS."

-- AMERICAN SOURCES SAID THAT THE RHODESIANS MAINTAINED

THEIR INTERNAL ACCORD MET ALL THE CRITERIA SET BY BRITAIN IN THE PAST FOR TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE. THE MEDIATORS WERE SAID TO HAVE ARGUED THAT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, BY EXCLUDING THE PF COULD NOT END THE GUERRILLA WAR OR LEAD TO THE LIFTING OF UN-IMPOSED ECONOMIC SANCTIONS.

--PRIVATELY, OFFICIALS IN THE MEDIATING PARTY HELD OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT NKOMO MIGHT BREAK WITH MUGABE.

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NYT ALSO CONTAINS "REPOTER'S NOTEBOOK" PIECE BY GWERTZMAN.

CSM -- SOUTHERLAND FROM SALISBURY

LEAD: "VANCE AND OWEN HAVE ENDED THEIR AFRICA MISSION ON A NOTE OF CONFUSION AND AMBIGUITY."

OTHER POINTS:

--A GLIMMER OF HOPE REMAINS FOR THE ALL-PARTY COFERENCE, BUT VANCE AND OWEN HAVE CLEARLY FAILED TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE COMBATANTS.

--THE IMMEDIATE RESULT OF THE MISSION SEEMED TO BE MORE BEHIND-THE-SCENES BARGAINING BETWEEN THE COMBATANTS AND THEIR SPONSORS AND CONTINUATION AND POSSIBLE INTENSIFICATION OF THE GUERRILLA WAR.

--BOTH SIDES IN THE CONFLICT SEEM TO THINK THEY ARE DEALING FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH, BUT NEITHER SIDE WISHES TO APPEAR TO BE TOTALLY INTRANSIGENT.

--SMITH SAID HE DOUBTED AN ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE WOULD TAKE PLACE, BUT HTE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WOULD GIVE "MATURE AND GOOD CONSIDERATION" TO A-A SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCH A CONFERENCE.

--SMITH ET AL. SEEM TO THINK THEY CAN COAX NKOMO AWAY FROM MUGABE.

--RHODESIANS HAD MIXED REACTIONS TO THE FIRST VISIT BY A SECSTATE. THE WHITE LEADERSHIP WAS CLEARLY PLEASED TO GET THIS KIND OF RECOGNITION FROM THE US.

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--VANCE WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN STRUCK BY A RECENT BANK REPORT PREDICTING "FURTHER MARKED DETERIORATION" IN RHODESIA'S ECONOMY. HE BELIEVES THIS WILL STRENGTHEN HIS ARGU-

MENT AGAINST THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT.

--VANCE'S HAND IN THE TALKS WAS WEAKENED BY THE APPARENT
HARD LINE TAKEN IN DAR BY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.

BALTIMORE SUN -- TREWHITT FROM SALISBURY

LEAD: " IAN SMITH SAID YESTERDAY HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD "DO
ITS BEST" TO ACCEPT ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS FOR NEGOTIA-
TIONS WITH BLACK MILITANTS OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY."

OTHER POINTS:

--SMITH SAID HE WOULD STUDY THE PLAN SUBMITTED BY VANCE
AND OWEN. THIS WAS AT LEAST A TACTICAL CONCESSION.

--SMITH WAS IN A CONCILIATORY MOOD AFTER TALKING WITH VANCE
AND OWEN. VANCE WAS PLEASED, REGARDING ANYTHING SHORT OF
REJECTION AS AN ENCOURAGING SIGN AND DESCRIBED THEIR MEET-
ING AS "VERY HELPFUL."

--VANCE WAS SAID TO HAVE A NEW SENSITIVITY TO THE COMPLEX-
ITIES OF THE ISSUES INCLUDING RIVALRIES AMONG THE NOMINAL
ALLIES ON BOTH SIDES.

--VANCE AND OWEN FOUND THAT BITH SIDES ATTACHED STRINGENT
CONDITIONS TO THE SMALLEST CONCESSIONS.

--AMERICAN DIPLOMATS BELIEVE -- OR AT LEAST HOPE -- THAT
MUGABE'S POSTION CAN BE MODERATED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.
BUT VANCE IS KNOWN TO BE INCREASINGLY DOUBTFUL.
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--US DIPLOMATS SAY THERE IS NO US SUPPORT FOR MUGABE EX-
CEPT AS ONE WHO HAS A RIGHT TO COMPETE DEMOCRATICALLY. BUT
SO FAR THE US HAS BEEN LEANING HARDER ON SMITH THAN MUGABE.

--NKOMO IS REGARDED AS LESS RADICAL AND LESS OF AN IDEO-
LOGUE THAN MUGABE. AN ATTEMPT TO SEPARATE NKOMO FROM MU-
GABE HAS LONG BEEN REGARDED AS A FALLBACK POSITION FOR
THE US AND BRITAIN.

--VANCE LEFT AFRICA FEELING THE ROUTE TO A NEGOTIATED
SETTLEMENT IS TILL OPEN, BUT STILL UPHILL.

WASHINGTON STAR -- BRADSHER FROM SALISBURY

LEAD: "IT MIGHT AT BEST BE TERMED A QUIXOTIC CHAPTER IN
AMERICAN DIPLOMACY."

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE WITH OWEN, SPENT FOUR DAYS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA TRYING TO GET ALL THE RHODESIAN POLITICAL FACTIONS TO AGREE TO NEGOTIATE. THEY FAILED. -

-- THE FAILURE IS LIKELY TO LEAVE SOME DOUBTS AMONG THE MORE MILITANT BLACK AFRICAN NATIONS OF WHETHER FLYING AROUND TALKING IS THE MOST THE UNITED STATES MIGHT DO IF IT WANTED.

-- THE WHOLE SEQUENCE WAS BASED ON A FAULTY ASSUMPTION THAT THE FRONT HAD BECOME WILLING TO TAKE ITS CHANCES IN IMPARTIAL, INTERNATIONALLY SUPERVISED ELECTIONS IN RHODESIA.

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-- ANYTHING LESS THAN A FIRM STAND BY CARTER AGAINST THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR AN INTERNAL SOLUTION TO THE QUESTION OF ACHIEVING BLACK MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA WOULD HAVE BEEN UNSATISFACTORY TO NIGERIA. CARTER SATISFIED NIGERIA WITH STRONG WORDS, BUT ACTION WAS NEEDED. THEREFORE, THE TRIP.

-- THERE WAS MUTTERING AMONG AMERICANS IN DAR ES SALAAM THAT YOUNG SHOULD HAVE BEEN PERSONALLY EMBARRASSED. HE HAD BEEN THE MAIN ADVOCATE WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE IDEA THAT THE TIME WAS RIPE FOR MAKING PROGRESS. AND VANCE WAS EMBARRASSED.

-- THE PRETORIA STOP KEPT THE CONVERSATION GOING WITHOUT PRODUCING ANY TANGIBLE PROGRESS. DIPLOMATS LIKE TO PRETEND IN THE FACE OF FAILURES TO ACHIEVE THEIR ORIGINAL OBJECTIVES THAT KEEPING CONVERSATIONS GOING IS PROGRESS.

-- THERE WAS PROGRESS HERE AT THE FINAL STOP TOO. BUT BY THE ORIGINAL MEASURE OF THE TRIP, IT WAS A FAILURE.

-- THE FAILURE WAS SO OBVIOUSLY COMING THAT VANCE AND OWEN DECIDED NOT EVEN TO INVITE THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT TO A CONFERENCE NEXT WEEK. THEY JUST ASKED SMITH AND HIS BLACK COLLEAGUES ON THE TRANSITIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO THINK ABOUT ONE.

MORNING RADIO/TV

NOTHING ON MORNING TV NEWS.

CBS RADIO -- KALB FROM CAIRO

KALB: IT WAS AS THOUGH NEITHER SIDE, NEITHER THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT NOR THE RHODESIAN GUERRILLAS WANTED
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TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR KILLING THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL FOR A PEACE CONFERENCE. DURING THE VANCE DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO SOUTHERN AFRICA THE GUERRILLAS AGREED TO A CONFERENCE, BUT THEY STIFFENED THEIR POLITICAL PRICE. THEY MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WANTED THE PREDOMINANT CONTROL OF ANY NEW RHODESIAN POLITICAL SET-UP. THAT, IN TURN, ONLY STIFFENED THE RESISTANCE OF THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT TO SITTING DOWN AT ANY PEACE CONFERENCE WITH THE GUERRILLAS.

BUT PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH AFTER MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE AND BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN, SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL BUT HE VOLUNTEERED A HINT OF POSSIBLE THINGS TO COME. WHEN A REPORTER ASKED SMITH WHETHER THE ANGLO-AMERICAN DELEGATION HAD CONVINCED HIM OF THE BENEFITS OF SUCH A CONFERENCE, SMITH REPLIED, "I DOUBT IT."

NO WORD OF WHEN THE OFFICIAL REPLY WOULD COME. THE RHODESIANS REJECTED THE PROPOSAL ONCE BEFORE. (CAIRO).

WIRES

UPI -- NO ANDERSON IN MORNING TAKE

AP -- SCHWEID FROM LONDON

LEAD: "US OFFICIALS ARE HOPING THAT VANCE'S TRIP TO AFRICA WILL HEAD OFF A WIDER CONFLICT IN RHODESIA."

OTHER POINTS:

--"THE STAKES ARE TOO HIGH TO PERMIT OURSELVES TO BE UNCLASSIFIED

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DISCOURAGED," SAID ONE U.S. OFFICIAL.

-- THERE IS A GROWING FEELING THAT NKOMO MIGHT COME TO TERMS WITH THE BLACK LEADERS IN SALISBURY. AMERICAN POLICY MAKERS THINK HE IS INCLINED TO NEGOTIATE.

-- VANCE THOUGHT AT THE OUTSET THE ODDS OF SETTING UP AN ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE WERE HEAVILY AGAINST HIM. THE GUESS AT THE CONCLUSION IS THAT A CONFERENCE IS STILL A LONG SHOT.

-- SMITH SAID HE DOUBTS A CONFERENCE WILL BE BENEFICIAL.

-. THE PROSPECT OF BLOODY CONFLICT IS BOTH FEARED AND CONSIDERED REAL AMONG U.S. POLICY MAKERS.

REUTER -- AHMED SHAWKI FROM CAIRO

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE HELD A 90-MINUTE MEETING AT CAIRO AIRPORT WITH EGYPTIAN FONMIN KAMEL EARLY TODAY ON RESUMING THE DEADLOCKED MIDDLE EAST TALKS AND THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON."

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE BROUGHT NO NEW U.S. PROPOSALS WITH HIM, MR. KAMEL TOLD REPORTERS LATER. BUT MR. KAMEL SAID ATHERTON WOULD COME TO CAIRO ON FRIDAY FOR TALKS.

-- THE EGYPTIAN MINISTER SAID HE TOLD MR. VANCE EGYPT APPRECIATED AMERICAN HELP IN THE MIDDLE EAST TALKS.

--KAMEL SAID HE AND VANCE DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN LEBANON "AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE." CHRISTOPHER

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